

The year that closes its record at midnight has been a memorable one in many respects. The return of general prosperity and the revival of industries and commerce are among the more important features of the year, while the wonderful boom the far west has experienced stands unrivaled in the history of nations. The mortality record among notable personages has been exceedingly large and the many bright minds whose brilliant lights have been extinguished impart the sadly instructive lesson that the great reaper, in its inexorable harvest, respects neither age, class nor condition. The progress made by Arizona has not been so plainly apparent as it is real. Its condition at the beginning of the year was indeed deplorable. The Indian curse was upon the land with all the force of a barbarous and savage warfare and every interest was paralyzed and almost destroyed. The drought added to the sum of its misfortune and scarcely the faintest ray of the rainbow of hope could be discerned. Now, however, the Apache question is forever settled and the most formidable barrier to progress is removed. Gradually the various interests have improved and prospered and more real development has been accomplished than ever before. Mines are being opened for legitimate purposes and an active revival of that industry is in progress. The people have turned their attention to the development of water for irrigation purposes and large tracts of new agricultural land will be brought under cultivation, bringing peace and plenty to the Territory. In the line of agriculture Arizona surely has a bright future and the silent work of the past year has laid the solid foundation for the good that is to come. This great preparatory work that is hardly appreciable in a general review of the record of the year, is essential to the future growth of the country and, therefore, it is a highly important mark of real progress. Henceforth the fruits of this work will be better seen and the evidences of advancement become more substantial. Hence we may accord to the expiring year the honor of marking the beginning of a new era of growth and permanent prosperity to Arizona. To the new year, that begins upon the holy Christian Sabbath, is given the task of nourishing the good seeds of progress that are planted and it is our earnest hope, as it is our sincere belief, that when we summarize a review of the year's record, twelve months hence, the task will be a pleasurable recital of the magical development of which we are sure this wonderful country is susceptible, and that we will realize the bright expectations with which the future is, with reason, regarded.

There is a bill before Congress providing for a judicial tribunal to determine all private land grants in Arizona, New Mexico and Colorado, in conjunction with other duties. This court is to be composed of three appointed judges to sit in Washington, and their decision is subject to appeal only to the United States Supreme Court. We cannot but regard this as a very dangerous innovation upon the jurisdiction of the regular courts and one that is calculated to defeat the ends of justice under the plausible guise of guarding its interests. The immense value of the property involved in these claims and the unscrupulous disregard of the methods employed by the claimants to gain their ends, require a degree of personal integrity in the judicial arbitrators that is something almost beyond human endowment, especially in this age of money-getting. The weight of temptation and the facility with which the actuating motive can be concealed in obscure rules and regulations and voluminous technicalities, constitute its greatest danger to the people. To us it looks like a cunning conception of the land grant claimants themselves, and if they possess the power and influence to secure its enactment as a law they can certainly contribute largely to the selection of the tools to execute their villainous schemes. "Eternal vigilance" is not only the price of liberty, but it is an absolute requirement in the peaceful possession of one's own home and fireside when the power of dispossession is placed so conveniently on tap as this new departure pretends. Our people should strongly protest against the passage of the bill and endeavor to defeat the strategic tactics of the claimants who seek to despoil them of their homes and hard earned possessions.

Congress has not covered itself all over with glory in the few weeks that have expired of the present session. It has merely warmed itself up to the tension of activity and the country awaits its reassembling next week with a hope that its labors will accomplish something for the good of the nation. The shaping of future political prestige at the expense of needed legislation is a reprehensible practice whether it prevails in the national Congress or in local affairs. From present appearances the Presidential succession will have a potent effect in determining the results of the deliberations of Congress during the present session.

The Hon. David Manning, ex-Secretary of the Treasury, died at his home in Albany, New York, on the afternoon of December 24th. He was a remarkable man in many respects and was the most intimate friend and adviser of President Cleveland.

The Kansas blizzard that swept down into Arizona two weeks ago, with its shivering winds and sharp frosts, has spent all its fury and the past week has given us a return of the lovely and warm weather that characterizes our winter climate. Bright and warm days of sunshine when doors and windows are opened to let in the soft breeze, again gladden the heart. Indeed, there is no other place on earth where such beautiful winter weather can be found, and this one grand resource should be sufficient to bring hither thousands of people from the frozen north and rheumatic east during the winter season. But we have more to offer them, for the soil is rich beyond comprehension and will grow luxurious crops that always command good prices, and but little toil or expense is required to create a lovely home out of the barren desert. The water question has been solved and nothing is now wanting but the brain, brawn and money of the industrious immigrant. These grand opportunities cannot long remain open, for their value will soon become widely known and appreciated by shrewd, practical men and a boom like that of southern California will speedily follow.

We are in receipt of the New York Star of the 17th inst., containing the report of Prof. Francis D. Taylor, a mining engineer of national reputation, on the Tortilita mines at the Owl Heads in this county. Mr. Taylor spent ten days at the mines and made a thorough examination, and his conclusions are highly favorable to those properties. Now we have this endorsement of the properties made after the most exhaustive research into the merits of the mines, to rebut the flippant charges made for a purpose by a Colorado mining engineer upon an examination of possibly two hours, and the public can judge which of the two is the more worthy of belief. For our part we have never lost confidence in these properties and have silently borne the base insinuations of the few Arizona journals that are hostile to the Territory's interests, fully realizing that our position would be fully vindicated when the facts were made known. We reiterate, the Tortilitas will yet prove to be among the great mines for which Pinal county is so justly famous.

A wet winter is predicted by the weatherwise, and a succession of favorable seasons will follow, if their words are at all prophetic. It is certain that a wonderful change has taken place in our meteorological condition, and the facility with which the rain-clouds assemble and dispense their favors upon the just and unjust, is the subject of comment by all weather observers. Even as we write, the clouds are gathering for another baptism of "dry" Arizona, and no one will be surprised if the farmer is able to grow his crops the coming year without the aid of artificial irrigation.

It is very probable that an effort will be made at the present session of Congress to place the telegraph business of the country under government control. The argument in its favor is that as a means of communication between individuals at widely separated points it is an auxiliary of the postal system and that the success of the government in conducting the postal affairs is a guarantee of its ability to make the telegraphic system a perfect means of cheap correspondence for the public.

There is another great tempest in the Hawaiian isles. King Kalakaua vetoed two measures passed by the Legislature and they threaten a real revolution if he does not abstain from interfering with legislation. There is no comfort for the king in holding a sceptre that he cannot wield half so effectively as a wild son of Erin can his blackthorn shillaby.

In New York a woman was sent to jail for a month for killing two canary birds. She would have been acquitted by the jury had she killed a man.

Bolsena will celebrate the thousandth anniversary of its university next year, and yet it doesn't hold a candle to the antiquity of Linburger.

Human Hyenas in Arizona.

"The Apache Indian is a human hyena. He is an insatiable, whose hand is raised against every living object, whether it be man or beast. He delights to kill. He is a fiend in human shape. He can be more civilized than a tiger. Of the two, I believe him to be the more blood-thirsty."

The speaker was Mr. M. A. Smith, the Delegate from Arizona Territory. "We have numerous other Indians among us," Mr. Smith continued, "who live in peace with the whites. The Yumas and Papagos are susceptible to civilizing influences. The children go to school, while the elders till the soil and make an honest effort to support themselves. Not so the Apache. From the time he is so high (holding his hand a foot from the ground), he will bite and steal, and murder if he can. "There are five thousand of them on the San Carlos reservation. The government feeds and clothes them. For some unexplained reason it furnishes them with arms and ammunition also, although their food is provided for them. Notwithstanding this care, when they can steal away from the reservation they will kill every white man they meet." "Speaking of this reminds me that a part of the Apache religion is the atonement for murder by blood. An Apache is killed his relatives must immediately kill a white man, or else he is doomed to suffer eternal torment. It makes no difference if the kinship be ten degrees removed, or if he is obliged to travel a month before meeting his victim, the obligation is quite the same." "Their religion, too, prevents them from committing a murder in the dark. If a dozen Apaches should discover you sleeping by your camp-fire at night they would not attack you until the sun came up. They believe if they kill a man at night their souls will walk in eternal darkness. Knowing this many of our people travel by night during the prevalence of Indian troubles in the Territory."

Three inches of snow fell in Tucson last week.

Mr. J. J. Sweeney and Miss H. Lillian Kelley were married in Phoenix on the 21st.

A brother of Supt. John O. Dougherty died at Total Wreck, in Pima county, last week.

The thermometer reached nine degrees above zero at Prescott, one night this winter.

Mr. B. C. Fox and Miss Jessie F. Bemis were married in Globe on December 20th.

Work is to be resumed on the Hope (MacMorris) and Golden Eagle groups of mines near Globe.

Watermelons were picked from the vines in Salt river valley on December 23rd, untouched by the frost.

Gov. Zuliak left Prescott last Monday for a visit cast to attend the marriage of his daughter to Lieutenant Ramsey on January 4th.

The Gila River section house was destroyed by fire early Friday morning. Section Foreman Edward Burke was fearfully burned, probably fatally.

T. S. Bullock, manager of the Prescott & Arizona Central railroad, has written to Phoenix parties to learn what inducement will be offered for the extension of his road to that city.

Harry Barnhart reports increased activity among the mines on the lower San Pedro, and says that several large sales of copper properties will probably be announced in a week or so.—Citizen.

County Treasurer Ritter of Cochise county, has set up a claim for a fee of 3 per cent for collecting taxes for the years 1885-6, amounting to over \$6,000, and purposes holding out the money from taxes received this year. The courts will decide the matter.

Some curiosity has been excited on the part of persons travelling on the Phoenix and Tempe road, at what appears to be ten or twelve comparatively new made graves, just beyond the old ruins of the Grand canal. No one seems to know who are buried there.—Arizonaan.

The Silver Belt is informed that on Friday last week, during a carnival of Indians, at which tinian was freely imbibed, near Lieut. Fowler's camp on the Gila, west of Camp Thomas, a free fight ensued, and one buck was killed. The Indian who did the killing escaped, and friends of the one murdered, thought to get revenge by killing his squaw, but she succeeded in reaching Lieut. Fowler's camp and gave information of the killing.

An accident occurred at one of the mines of the Detroit Copper company last Wednesday, whereby Fernando Portillo, a miner, lost his life. It seems a blast was set in a tunnel and the miners engaged in putting it in, after lighting the fuse, went out one end of the tunnel and Portillo entered at the other, unconscious of any danger. When just about to charge it exploded, injuring the unfortunate man internally and causing a compound fracture of the right leg. The poor fellow lingered until last Saturday, when death put an end to his sufferings.—Clifton Clarion.

Governor Zuliak has granted a conditional pardon to Barney Riggs, the life convict, who saved Superintendent Gato's life during the recent outbreak at the Territorial prison, at the extreme end of the prison. If ever a man merited pardon it was Barney Riggs. The conditions, however, of his pardon are that he leave and remain away from the Territory. These conditions were imposed by Governor Zuliak on account of representations made by court officials of Cochise county that Riggs had made threats against the lives of certain witnesses against him at the time of his trial.—Journal.

Fixing the Price.

Mr. Thomas H. McMullen writes from Washington to the Phoenix Arizona that the bill for the relief of settlers on Texas Pacific land grant, from El Paso to San Diego, introduced by Senator Teller, is as follows:

A Bill to fix the price of public lands within the limits of the forfeited "Texas Pacific" railroad land grant.

Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America in congress assembled, that the price of public lands within the limits of the grant of land in aid of the Texas Pacific railroad from El Paso, Texas, to San Diego, California, shall hereafter be the minimum price of public lands of the United States.

Sec. 2. In all cases where public lands within the limits of the said Texas Pacific land grant have been settled and filed upon under the act of congress approved—, eighteen hundred and seventy-seven, providing for the reclamation of desert lands, such settlers, upon proof of reclamation required by said act, shall be entitled to payment upon the payment of such sum, in addition to the sum paid at the time of filing, as will amount to one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre; and all cash entries hereafter made within said grant shall be at the minimum price of public lands of the United States, without regard to the date of settlement or time of filing thereon.

Sec. 3. In all cases where settlers within the limits of the said land grant cash entries, have heretofore been compelled to pay double price for land by reason of said grant, there shall be refunded to them such sums as were paid into the treasury of the United States in excess of one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre; and the treasurer of the United States is hereby directed to appropriate and use so much of the receipts from the sale of public land as shall be necessary for such purpose. Provided, That the sums hereby authorized to be refunded shall be disbursed under regulations to be made by the commissioner of the general land office, and shall be paid only to the settlers who paid the same into the treasury, or, in case of death, to the heirs or legal representatives of such settler. And provided further, That no sale, transfer, or assignment of such claims shall be valid, and all claims not presented within one year from the passage of this act shall be forever barred.

Sec. 4. The proviso as to price of land in the act approved February twenty-fifth, eighteen hundred and eighty-five, is hereby repealed.

The same bill, word for word, will be introduced in the house by Hon. Mark A. Smith, at the earliest possible day for the introduction of bills in the house.

A Good Bargain.

A pair of splendid gold scales of 300 ozs., capacity, that originally cost \$550, will be sold cheap for cash. For particulars apply at this office.

RED SHIRT IN BATTLE.

The Sioux Chief Spins a Big Yarn for a London Reporter.

"Yes," continued Red Shirt "I will tell you of a great fight of the Sioux Nation with the Pawnees, who were always bad Indians. They had met our people on the hunt and killed them; they had attacked our villages and carried away our squaws and children, and their young braves came like serpents in the grass and stole away our horses. The Sioux Nation offered to make a treaty of peace with the Pawnees, but the bad Indians refused, and the Grand Council of the Sioux sat down to discuss how we should punish these bad people, and every chief there spoke for going on the war-path. Then we made ready to fight. It is fifteen years ago, ready to fight. I was a young chief then; but my father, who was great chief, was on the war-path and I was eager to prove myself a warrior in his eyes. I collected my young men and we set out, although thirteen hundred strong, under sixteen big chiefs. The most experienced warriors were sent on two days' march in advance to scout, and scouts were thrown out on every side to guard against surprise. For eight days our braves marched against the enemy, and then some spies came back and told us that they had found the Pawnee village. Many of the Pawnee braves were on a high hunt, but nearly all the remainder of the tribe were at the village. We gathered around the camp without being discovered, and the great chiefs told the young men how the battle was to be fought.

"Not till the signal was given for attack did the Pawnees find out their enemies were near. Some of the Pawnees were cowards and ran before we got into the village, but the majority stayed to fight for their wigwams and to die for them. They were surprised, and in one great dash we cleared their lodges and wigwams. I was armed with a long spear. Nearly all our braves had spears, and bows and arrows, but many had guns, too. I ran to a young chief who stood to guard his life. He was a brave and a good warrior, but he fell before my spear, and his scalp adorned my belt. Near by four Pawnee braves stood in a bunch and made a great fight against the attacks of some of our young men. I joined them, and with my long spear I killed each one of those four braves, and the scalps I added to the one already on my belt. Then the fight was almost done. The Pawnees left alive tried to get to their fast horses, but our young men were too quick for them. It was a running fight, and they were scalped almost as they ran. I met three women running for the horses. Two were armed with knives and one with a club, but I killed all three. I did not take their hair. A brave boasts not of killing women, and a woman's scalp adorns not a chief's lodge. There was no hesitation about killing their women and children. They had killed ours, and revenge is sweet to the red man. All, however, were not killed, for we took thirty-six squaws, prisoners and carried them back to the Sioux camp, where we were hailed with shouts of victory, for we had brought back with us over five hundred scalps to show that these bad Indians had been punished. Besides we had all their horses and stores and trophies to make glad the hearts of our squaws.

"That light took place in the southern country of the Big Beaver; but the white man holds that land now, and the Indian has gone nearer the setting sun. Another grand council was held on our return, when we agreed to send the thirty-six prisoners back to their tribe—mounted on our best horses and loaded with presents, and the message we sent with them was that we had tried to make a treaty with them, they would not listen to our words, and they continued to attack our people and steal our horses. Now we had killed all we could find except the women, and those we sent back to tell them how we punished bad Indians who interfere with the Sioux Nation."—St. James' Budget.

BENNETT'S YACHT.

The Elegantly Equipped Floating Palace of the Newspaper Millionaire.

James Gordon Bennett has one of the swiftest yachts in the world. It is a boat of seven hundred tons burden, almost as large as any of the old-style Cunarders. It takes a crew of fifty men to run it, with six waiters to serve the tables for Bennett and his guests. A friend, who has just returned from Europe and has been cruising on Mr. Bennett's boat, said that life on his craft was a dream. A French cook furnished the finest eating, and an Alderney cow is carried in a zinc stall on the boat, so that the choicest of fresh milk could be had at every meal. The daily life was an inspiration. In the morning coffee and fruit were served in the state-rooms where the people arose. Then a bath, where a servant was furnished, who rubbed the guest down with the choicest Turkish towels. Then marmalade and sweets, and about one o'clock a breakfast in elegant shape. Dinner in the evening, with all the surroundings that would tend to make a man satisfied with his lot. In this way Mr. Bennett sees the world. He is everywhere recognized as a man of strong talents and sterling executive ability. If he should try he could make himself a power anywhere. His income is certainly more than \$600,000 a year, and what does it mean to him or to his country? He is forty-six years old and still unmarried. Unless he soon finds a mate, the vast estate which he has inherited will go to those who can not transmit to posterity the name or the fame of the Bennetts.—Brooklyn Union.

—Miss B.—"Why is it, Mr. A., that wherever you refer to a Boston friend you invariably use the word 'fellow'?" New Yorker—"O, because he belongs around the Hub, of course."—Boston Globe.

—A ice-making machine has been placed on the new man-of-war Boston, the first instance of the kind.

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EARTH UPHEAVALS.

The Effects of Earthquakes Much Worse Than Those of Cyclones.

There is something about those mighty displays of nature's forces which we term earthquakes that interests and fascinates a vast majority of mankind. Probably few readers are aware that since 1838 no less than 250 earthquakes have occurred in various parts of New England and the Atlantic States. Previous to the recent destructive earthquake at Charleston the most severe shock known in this country was at New Madrid, Mo., in 1811. The ground rose in huge waves, which burst, and volumes of water, sand, and pit coal were thrown high as the tops of the trees. The forests waved like standing corn in a gale of wind, and an area seventy miles long by thirty miles wide was submerged and became a swampy lake.

On August 15, 1868, a fearful earthquake took place in Peru, which laid waste much of the country lying between the Andes and the Pacific. The shocks were felt through a distance of 1,400 miles, north and south, and three important cities were destroyed. At Arequipa, in Peru, forty miles from the sea, a slight undulatory shock was felt, followed by others so violent that in five minutes not a house was standing in that city of 44,000 inhabitants. A subterranean rumbling, like the rush of an avalanche, was heard above the crash, and a cloud of dust rose in the still air over the city. On the seacoast were situated Iquique and Arica—both were destroyed by the shocks, and overwhelmed by a tremendous wave. The ocean thus took up the vibrations of the land, and waves of tremendous volume were put in motion, which rolled, not only upon the coast, but away from it with a velocity in the deep ocean of not less than 400 miles an hour. The great wave—for one was of much greater volume than the others—has been estimated at upward of 200 miles breadth, with a length along its crest of 8,000 miles. This rolled into the harbor of Yokohama, in Japan, 10,500 miles distant, and was felt at Port Faidy, in South Victoria, distant nearly one-half of the earth's circumference.

The opening and closing of fissures and chasms in the ground during earthquakes is a common phenomenon. Men, animals and dwellings are sometimes swallowed in them and forever disappear. In 1848 an earthquake shook a large portion of New Zealand, and a fissure of great depth opened along a chain of mountains from one thousand to 10,000 feet high, extending sixty miles, but of not more than eighteen inches in average width. During the Calabrian earthquake of 1783 the surface of the ground opened and closed in immense fissures, by means of which new lakes were formed and others drained or were dried up. At Jerocarne the earth is described, by Sir Charles Lyell, as lacerated in an extraordinary manner. "Fissures ran in every direction, like cracks in a broken pane of glass." In another instance, several dwellings were engulfed in a fissure, and were found to be jammed, with their contents, into a compact mass. Chasms of immense length and depth were formed. Some were crescent-shaped, and a mile in length. The plains of Calabria were covered in many places with circular hollows from one foot to three or four feet in diameter. Some of these were filled with water others with dry sand.

But changes in the earth's crust occur during earthquakes, on a still grander scale. Evidences of local disturbance, however disastrous it may have been, are often effaced if not forgotten in a few years. But the slow upheaval of mountain chains and the dislocation of strata through profound depths are results which have been the subject of inquiry by the world's leading geologists. Whether the central portions of the earth be fluid or not, it is quite certain that heat increases as we descend; and it is estimated by Sir Charles Lyell that the heat at a depth of twenty-five miles would be sufficient to melt granite, and at thirty-four miles to render fluid or incandescent every known substance. We have no means of knowing the condition of matter under the enormous pressure which prevails at a depth of thirty-four miles, and are most concerned with the fact that the heat of fusion exists at no very great depth beneath the surface. The earth's crust is, therefore, its cooled exterior.

It is found that nearly all rocks contract by cooling and expand by heat. Lyell estimates that sandstone a mile in thickness, and heated to 200 degrees Fahrenheit, would expand so as to lift a mass of rock upon it ten feet above its former level; and if a mass of the earth's crust equally expansible, fifty miles in thickness, be heated to 800 degrees, it would rise 1,500 feet. From cooling we have the reverse effect—shrinkage, contraction, lateral pressure, and ultimately blending of the strata. The strain thus produced will at length cause fracture, and the vibration that results is an earthquake. This form of tension is being continually and everywhere produced in the earth's crust, and there is probably no instant of time when that crust is entirely free from vibrations. "There is nothing," observes Darwin, "not even the wind that blows, so unstable as the level of the crust of the globe."—Chicago Herald.

—A stout old lady got out of a crowded omnibus the other day, exclaiming: "Well, that's a relief, anyhow." To which the driver, eyeing her ample proportions, replied, "So the 'esses thinks, num."

—It is often the case that the man who serves you in a restaurant is misnamed. You are the waiter, not he.

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FORMS OF OATHS.

Some of the Most Ancient Modes of Swearing Recorded by the Ancients.

The ancient Germans swore by their gods, by their swords and by their beads.

The Scandinavians, besides appealing to the gods, touched a bloody ring in the hands of a priest.

In some parts of China a witness is sworn upon a saucer, which is broken at the moment he takes the oath.

The Hindu swears by the Veda, the sacred book of his religion. In like manner the Mohammedan is sworn on the Koran.

In Egypt the custom prevailed of swearing by the goose. This is said to have been on account of the veneration in which the goose was held in that country.

In Madagascar the people swear either by their sovereign or by their mothers, and there are two forms of witnessing the oath, one to "strike the water" and the other to "spear the calf."

The ancient Greeks and Romans swore by Jupiter, Minerva, Neptune and other gods and goddesses, laying their hands upon the altar of the divinity sworn by in taking a particularly sacred oath.

Anciently the Jews swore by Jerusalem, by the temple, by the God of Israel, and also by broken glass, this last form being similar to the Chinese custom of breaking a saucer against the witness-bow.

In "Bruce's Travels" it is said that in Abyssinia "they took the two forefingers of my right hand, one after the other, and they kissed them—a form of swearing used there at least among those who call themselves Christians."

The most ancient form of swearing of which there is any record is that mentioned in the Bible in Genesis, where Abraham, swearing his eldest servant, required him to place his hand under his (Abraham's) thigh. This form is mentioned in several places in the Old Testament.

According to Oldfield, in his "Expedition into the Interior of Africa by the Niger," at Kidalah placing a naked sword or knife to the throat is looked upon as the strongest proof of innocence and the most solemn form of oath they can administer. In this manner the King is sworn, sometimes at the point of a poisoned arrow."—Chicago News.

SNAKES IN MEXICO.

The Inconceivable Number of Serpents Found on Chapala's Islands.

Some of the islands are absolutely unexplorable, because of the inconceivable number and variety of the serpents that infest them. No wonder those early Indians considered a skirt of woven snakes the most appropriate garment for the goddess of the earth! Centuries before the coming of the Aztecs the poetical people who inhabited these Western shores, contemplating the azure Pacific, named the goddess of water Chalchihuitlicue—"she of the skirts of blue;" and no less appropriately the tribes of this section called the earth's goddess Chihuacatl—"she of the skirt of snakes." Other tribes call her Coatlicue—"the woman serpent;" the Aztec Eve, whose head is a serpent's, with the breast and limbs of a woman, and whose gown is a web of snakes adorned with tassels and feathers. In attempting to explore some of the islands of Lake Chapala it seemed as if the earth literally wore a "skirt of serpents." The ground swarmed with them, swaying and writhing from every bush, hissing and squirming on every fallen tree, and rippling the water in all directions. It was a question as to which were more numerous, the birds above or snakes below. They tell us that as soon as the spring birds reappear there is a great gathering of snakes below and hawk above. The latter literally cover the trees, and whenever hunger dictates they make a dash at the tired little creatures who have settled upon the islands after their annual return from some unknown region. If a bird escape the hawks and seeks to refresh himself with a drink in the twinkling of an eye he is swallowed by one of the greedy serpents that lie in wait for him at the water's edge.—Cor. Philadelphia Record.

Summer Curtains.

A pretty summer curtain may be made of thin unbleached cotton with bands of blue or pink at the top and bottom. Curtains for summer should be light and airy. Common fish-net makes the most graceful and prettiest drapery imaginable. Gray linen curtains are always serviceable and look cool and refreshing. A piece of antique lace for either an insertion or edge gives a pleasing effect. Madras cloth comes in many qualities and prices and is very popular for warm weather. It makes a pretty seaside curtain, and stands any amount of exposure and sun. There is nothing prettier or more suitable for a country house than this material unless it is cheese cloth, which is brought in both zera and fancy colors.—Detroit Tribune.

—Mrs. DeBaggs—"Ah, my dear, you have missed the treat of a lifetime. You should have gone to Mrs. Dusenbury's social. DeBongton, the poet, read twenty selections from his own works. It was delightful." Mrs. Bagley—"Do you understand French?" Mrs. De Baggs—"O, dear, no! But the accent! I do so enjoy the accent."—Philadelphia Call.

—Colonel James Young, a farmer of Middletown, Pa., planted 1,282 trees in Pennsylvania's Arbor Day, including 85 fruit trees, 276 willow and 920 oaks trees.

Volapuk in Telegraphy.

At the recent international congress of Volapukists it was resolved to petition the German Government for the admission of Volapuk among the languages that may be used in telegraphing. Herr Enna, of Copenhagen, informed the congress that the Danish Government had already instructed the post and telegraph officials to take lessons in Volapuk, and it was further ascertained that in Russia Volapuk has been for some time among the languages in which telegraphic messages may be sent.—N. Y. Post.

Improve Your Stock.

It is common to have even men who have been considered progressive say these hard times that it does not pay to improve stock, as it does not bring enough to cover cost. If yearlings are sold the argument holds good, but if they are matured at home, which everybody admits must be the case in future, said assertion will not stand the light of investigation. Pounds must be produced, and not horns. Hereafter the improvement has been mainly with half breeds, which produce at best only quarter breeds, and the effect has not been as manifest as many expected. But outside of higher prices, which a smooth half breed will bring as well as a heavier weight, the saving in commissions is no small matter of economy which must be practiced on every hand.

Under the present system of per capita commissions it costs \$50 or 25 per cent to sell 100 head of 800 pound steers, they bringing \$2.50 per 100 pounds